THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The article published in Indian Express on 28th December 2002 is based on a PIL filed by Heritage and Culture Forum, praying that a list of protected monuments be published by Archaeological Survey of India. However, no orders have been passed by the Hon'ble High Court.

(b) Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 does not require Archaeological Survey of India to publish any list in the press. All protected Monuments are notified in gazette, which amounts to publication.

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India has included which monuments in the prespective plan drawn up for the next five years.

Financial assistance for development of tourist spots in A.P.

2129. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal for financial assistance for development of tourist spots in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) what are the names of historical spots in Andhra Pradesh being financially assisted by the Central Government at present?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) During 10th Five Year Plan, Department of Tourism, Government of India has decided to identify integrated travel circuits in the country each year. These circuits are finalised and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments and the concerned Govt. of India Departments. In addition to this it is also proposed to identify one major destination in each State/UT Administration, each year in consultation with them for overall development including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Under the above schemes, based on the preliminary proposals submitted, Nagarjunasagar has been identified for development as a major Destination and Pochampalli for development under the Rural Tourism.

(c) During 9th Five Year Plan total 53 projects were sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh. Some of them are as follows:

Refurbishment of Monuments at Quli Qutab Shahi Tomb at Hyderabad, Heritage Interpretation Centre at Golconda, Signages at Hyderabad, Illumination of Pagoh Tomb Hyderabad, Pedestrian Landscape improvement at Charminar, Hyderabad.

Development of Buddhist Centres in Andhra Pradesh

2130. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is historical evidence of Buddhism at several places of Andhra Pradesh, particularly Nagarjuna Sagar, Bhattiprolu, Amaravathi, etc.;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that by developing these places tourism can be encouraged and a lot of foreign exchange can be earned; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to develop these tourism spots?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government is also aware that development of these places is good for tourism growth. The ASI has already introduced ticket system for entry at two places viz. at Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda levying Rs. 5.00 each for Indian visitor and $ 2 or Rs. 100.00 each for foreign visitors.

(c) Since these sites are protected by ASI, regular conservation works are being carried out by them to keep them in presentable condition.

Development Garhmukteshwar as a tourist place

†2131. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop religious city Garhmukteshwar as a tourist place;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.